

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1699

Introduced by Assembly Member Frommer

February 22, 2005

An act relating to railroads, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1699, as amended, Frommer. Commuter and intercity passenger trains: push-pull operation: study.

Existing law provides for federal regulation of safety and equipment matters relative to rail passenger and freight service, and provides for federal and state funding of various rail passenger services throughout the state. Existing law sets forth responsibilities of the Public Utilities Commission relative to railroad safety. Existing law provides for the Director of Transportation to allocate available funds from the Public Transportation Account to the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California for various transportation research activities.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to contract with the Institute of Transportation Studies to conduct a study of the

safety of push-pull commuter rail and intercity rail passenger operations in California, and would require the study to be submitted to the Legislature by June 1, 2008. *The bill would appropriate \$475,000 from the Public Transportation Account in the State Transportation Fund to the department for these purposes.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~-yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) Commuter rail and intercity rail passenger services are
4 important elements of an intermodal surface transportation
5 system.

6 (b) The Legislature and the residents of California desire a
7 safe commuter rail and intercity rail passenger transportation
8 system.

9 (c) To ensure that the state's system of commuter rail and
10 intercity rail passenger services are operating in an environment
11 that assures passenger safety, the Legislature desires an
12 independent study to review the current safety of these services
13 and the most cost-effective options and strategies that will
14 enhance passenger safety.

15 SEC. 2. (a) The Department of Transportation shall contract
16 with the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of
17 California at Berkeley to conduct a study of the safety of
18 push-pull commuter rail and intercity rail passenger operations in
19 California.

20 (b) The study shall examine the safety of push-pull technology
21 compared to pull operations; the efficacy of crash energy
22 management systems designed into cab cars and conventional
23 passenger rail cars; the potential for the reduction of accidents
24 through the use of electronic crash avoidance technologies; the
25 viability of sealed corridor strategies intended to reduce accidents
26 at grade crossings and reduce the unauthorized intrusions into
27 railroad rights-of-way by pedestrians and vehicles; and other
28 safety strategies that the institute may deem appropriate and in its
29 judgment determines should be brought to the attention of the
30 Legislature.

1 (c) After identifying the alternative strategies to improve the
2 safety of push-pull commuter rail and intercity rail passenger
3 operations, the study shall identify the safety benefits that would
4 result from implementing the strategies, the estimated cost of
5 implementing the strategies, and the overall cost-effectiveness of
6 the strategies. In conducting the study, the institute shall ensure
7 that there is an individual participating on the research team who
8 is familiar with the generation and interpretation of transportation
9 safety statistics.

10 (d) In conducting the study, the institute shall establish an
11 advisory panel that includes representatives from the department,
12 the Public Utilities Commission, the Federal Railroad
13 Administration, Amtrak, California commuter rail operators,
14 passenger rail user groups, freight railroads, and others deemed
15 appropriate by the institute. In conducting the study, the institute
16 is encouraged to consult with knowledgeable persons at other
17 research centers regarding the study. The content of the report
18 and its final recommendations shall reflect the judgment and
19 conclusions of the research team.

20 SEC. 3. The study required by Section 2 of this act shall be
21 submitted to the Legislature on or before June 1, 2008.

22 SEC. 4. *The sum of four hundred seventy-five thousand*
23 *dollars (\$475,000) is hereby appropriated from the Public*
24 *Transportation Account in the State Transportation Fund to the*
25 *Department of Transportation for the purposes of this act. These*
26 *funds shall be made available from the funds available pursuant*
27 *to subdivision (b) of Section 99315 of the Public Utilities Code.*